

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 307
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2021**

TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS IN VILLAGES

†*307. DR. RAMAPATI RAM TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of villages in the country including Deoria district in Uttar Pradesh, where telecommunication towers have been set up during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UTwise and Telecom Company-wise;
- (b) whether the telecommunication network condition/position in the villages is poor and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to improve the telecommunication network in such areas and if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS, LAW & JUSTICE AND
ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)**

- (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) to (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No. 307 FOR 17th MARCH, 2021 REGARDING “TELECOMMUNICATION TOWERS IN VILLAGES”

(a) Sir, the total number of villages (inhabited villages as per census 2011) in the country where telecommunication towers have been set up during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and telecom company-wise, is attached as **Annexure-1**.

The total number of villages in Deoria District of Uttar Pradesh where telecommunication towers have been set up during each of the last three years and current year, telecom company-wise, is attached as **Annexure-2**.

(b) Out of 5,97,618 villages of the Country, 5,72,551 number of villages are already having mobile connectivity which is 95.8%. The Telecom Service Providers (TSPs), as per the requirement of DoT have provided these numbers. These numbers are furnished by various TSPs who provide mobile connectivity in the villages and they have authentic data about the villages wherein they provide service.

Over the years, the Government and Department of Telecommunication have been insisting on the TSPs to upgrade the Telecom Infrastructure particularly the BTS and Towers. The consistent effort has shown significant result as is evident from the table given below

Number of BTS	6,49,834 (March-14)	22,30,192 (March-21)
Number of Tower	4,15,724 (Dec-15)	6,40,613 (March-21)

However, while taking note of the efforts of TSPs there have been some factors which have created some road blocks in this context. These are inability to install additional BTSs on existing Towers due to loading issues, opposition from local residents due to the perceived fear of EMF (Electro-Magnetic Field) radiation, non-availability of suitable structure at various places, inaccessible terrain and transportation difficulties of equipment at various locations, and unwarranted delays in commissioning new sites due to various procedural formalities from local administration/agencies account for the 4.2% uncovered villages.

(c) Government took a series of actions to improve the telecommunication network to cover all the villages of the country with network connectivity. Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) was created to provide widespread and non-discriminatory access to quality information and communication technology (ICT) services at affordable prices for people living in rural and remote areas. Government under USOF prepares various schemes to provide mobile connectivity in uncovered remote and rural villages. The details of these schemes are provided at **Annexure-3**.

Further, in order to address the difficulties being faced by the Telecom Service Providers, Infrastructure Providers and Telecom Companies with various States/ Union Territories and Concerned Central Government Departments/ Agencies in setting up underground and over ground telecom infrastructure on account of multiple right of way related issues and exorbitant charges, the Government of India notified Indian Telegraph Right of Way Rules – 2016 in November 2016. These rules govern the Right of Way procedures for setting up towers and laying fibers across the country.

Annexure-1

Telecom company-wise and State/UT wise total number of villages where telecom towers were installed during the last three years and the current year

S No	State/UT	Name of Company	No. of Census inhabited villages where telecom towers were installed			
			During 2017-18	During 2018-19	During 2019-20	During 2020-21
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	BAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		BSNL	4	NIL	8	NIL
		VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
2	Andhra Pradesh	BSNL	18	11	12	12
		BAL	103	260	309	463
		RJIL	2577	2041	594	33
		VIL	Nil	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Arunachal Pradesh	BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	50	46	52	NIL
		BHL	104	157	275	126
		VIL	62	57	12	4
4	Assam	BAL	138	378	570	468
		BSNL	25	30	2	NIL
		RJIL	279	1274	956	703
		VIL	4	7	1	NIL
5	Bihar	BAL	87	441	1091	928
		BSNL	66	NIL	NIL	NIL
		VIL	12	247	295	4
		RJIL	2659	2424	2208	1388

6	Chandigarh	BAL	1	1	1	3
		BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	2	NIL	NIL	NIL
		VIL	96	NIL	NIL	1
7	Chhattisgarh	BSNL	30	44	13	2
		VIL	7	2	3	NIL
		RJIL	804	2192	777	670
		BAL	23	65	232	22
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu	BAL	3	2	1	1
		VIL	2	NIL	2	4
		BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	29	16	4	1
9	Goa	BAL	5	9	5	2
		VIL	NIL	NIL	1	NIL
		RJIL	107	87	25	8
		BSNL	NIL	34	8	1
10	Gujarat	BAL	96	265	152	279
		VIL	126	94	144	209
		BSNL	3	79	64	36
		RJIL	3808	2905	1321	1036
11	Haryana	RJIL	1421	2173	351	35
		BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		BAL	114	112	52	350
		VIL	105	50	164	45
12	Himachal Pradesh	BSNL	2	11	14	4
		RJIL	741	777	489	89

		VIL	3	51	10	NIL
		BAL	77	290	255	416
13	Jammu and Kashmir	BAL	86	194	103	191
		RJIL	1010	1231	448	193
		BSNL	8	NIL	NIL	3
		VIL	23	30	36	NIL
14	Jharkhand	BAL	40	127	540	583
		BSNL	54	42	NIL	NIL
		VIL	3	58	47	NIL
		RJIL	917	1361	933	948
15	Karnataka	RJIL	243	1839	1474	656
		BAL	415	470	1067	1066
		VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		BSNL	42	38	19	6
16	Kerala	BSNL	94	83	40	22
		VIL	2	3	4	NIL
		RJIL	121	32	39	17
		BAL	193	151	42	220
17	Ladakh	BSNL	12	15	10	4
		VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		BAL	12	16	9	47
		RJIL	NIL	54	34	21
18	Lakshadweep	BAL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		BSNL	NIL	2	1	NIL
19	Madhya Pradesh	BAL	47	50	42	80
		BSNL	25	114	481	NIL

		RJIL	3306	4474	1758	932
		VIL	33	15	46	4
20	Maharashtra	BAL	101	255	558	349
		VIL	60	28	14	45
		RJIL	4742	3725	2120	387
		BSNL	1	1305	532	59
		MTNL	3	NIL	NIL	NIL
21	Manipur	BSNL	9	8	55	14
		RJIL	102	86	68	4
		BHL	158	187	401	301
		VIL	81	31	11	3
22	Meghalaya	BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	149	189	230	2
		BHL	127	238	146	142
		VIL	45	52	45	NIL
23	Mizoram	BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	33	37	37	NIL
		BHL	56	97	238	121
		VIL	10	4	2	NIL
24	Nagaland	BSNL	20	NIL	30	3
		RJIL	123	64	76	1
		BHL	70	139	237	130
		VIL	31	23	14	2
25	Delhi	BAL	21	8	18	7
		VIL	13	11	24	13
		RJIL	42	35	11	7

		MTNL	22	NIL	NIL	NIL
26	Odisha	BAL	141	573	687	873
		BSNL	138	84	51	13
		RJIL	2169	2278	1256	591
		VIL	9	18	41	5
27	Puducherry	BAL	NIL	3	1	1
		BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	38	51	17	11
		VIL	4	1	5	9
28	Punjab	BAL	58	349	152	345
		BSNL	NIL	15	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	2241	1772	187	1
		VIL	1	70	26	120
29	Rajasthan	VIL	64	18	14	15
		BSNL	21	32	NIL	5
		RJIL	3439	4653	1995	234
		BHL	139	251	901	1041
30	Sikkim	BAL	0	1	9	1
		BSNL	0	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	12	28	34	13
		VIL	0	NIL	NIL	NIL
31	Tamil Nadu	BAL	279	2384	166	295
		VIL	130	541	347	563
		BSNL	9	2	2	NIL
		RJIL	4394	5766	1491	834
32	Telangana	BSNL	8	13	7	3

		BAL	64	212	190	350
		VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	2020	1699	583	40
33	Tripura	BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	186	128	80	1
		BHL	258	294	165	129
		VIL	56	37	6	NIL
34	Uttar Pradesh	BAL	133	417	174	728
		BSNL	103	322	6	1
		RJIL	5997	7125	1797	1078
		VIL	107	31	587	63
35	Uttarakhand	VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	320	436	481	471
		BAL	50	90	32	95
		BSNL	1	3	18	1
36	West Bengal	BAL	NIL	1	5	16
		BSNL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	827	2003	1874	168
		VIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

Legends:

- BAL : Bharti Airtel Limited
BHL : Bharti Hexacom Limited
BSNL : Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
MTNL : Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
RJIL : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited
VIL : Vodafone Idea Limited

Telecom company-wise total number of villages where telecom towers were installed during the last three years and the current year in Deoria District

S No	District	Name of Company	No. of Census inhabited villages where telecom towers were installed			
			During 2017-18	During 2018-19	During 2019-20	During 2020-21
1	Deoria (Uttar Pradesh)	BAL	1	10	16	30
		BSNL	1	11	NIL	NIL
		RJIL	98	96	38	10
		VIL	319	4	NIL	NIL

Legends:

- BAL : Bharti Airtel Limited
BSNL : Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
RJIL : Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited
VIL : Vodafone Idea Limited

The details of various schemes to provide mobile connectivity in uncovered remote and rural villages under Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) are as follows:

1. **354 uncovered villages scheme:** Under this scheme 354 uncovered villages of border villages of J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttarakhand and other priority areas are being covered. Work has been awarded to RJIL. The work is under progress and as on date 87 villages have been covered.
2. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-I scheme:** Under this scheme 2343 mobile towers were installed at MHA identified locations. Out of these 78 mobile towers were installed in Sonbhadra, Mirzapur & Chandauli districts of Uttar Pradesh. All towers are operational and providing services. The project is completed.
3. **Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Phase-II scheme:** Under this scheme 2542 mobile towers at MHA identified locations have been planned. Out of these, 42 mobile towers have been planned with 4G connectivity in Sonbhadra District of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is under process.
4. **502 Aspirational District Schemes:** Under this schemes, towers for mobile connectivity for 502 uncovered villages have been planned in Aspirational districts across 4 states i.e. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Out of these 22 villages in 6 districts of Uttar Pradesh (Bahraich, Balrampur, Chandauli, Chitrakoot, Shrawasti & Sonbhadra) have been planned. Tender has been finalized and award of work is under process.
5. **7287 Aspirational District Scheme:** Under this scheme 7287 villages have been planned for provisioning of 4G based Mobile services in the uncovered villages of Aspirational Districts of 5 States of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Odisha. Cabinet Note of the scheme is under submission for approval.
